
GERALD LOCKLIN: WR: 9, 21, 27/28, 31ss, 33, 35, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 50ss,wa, 53, 56, 60, 61, 64ss, 67cb, 70, 72, 73, 74, 76ss, 77, 78, 80, 81/82, 84, 85, 87, 88ss, 92, 93ss, 94, 97, 99, 101, 102.

A SECULAR SALVATION

because we believe in acquainting our children
with all the myths of their society
my wife constructs a paper-cutout creche
on top of the t.v., next to the living christmas tree,
and we play all the christmas songs
of every faith and every language.
i'm a little worried that we may be overdoing the tolerance
to the point of making a convert to an outworn creed,
since, at first, our three-year-old speaks reverently
of mary, joseph, and "the baby lord jesus,"

but within a couple of days i hear her,
sitting, pissed off by something or other,
on the pottie, and creating her own carol
about "the stupid dumb jesus."

and the next morning i awake to hear her,
in front of the nativity scene,
asking her mother,
"where's their ping-pong table?"

SHE LOVES THE RING OF IT

when i tell her i've been receiving mail
already opened, and that two large packages
of my books never arrived,

and that i think these postal mishaps
could be related to the theory i was circulating

that hemingway might have been slipped drugs
by american intelligence agents,

she says, "you're too small a fish
for the c.i.a. to bother with."